

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 224

To designate September 23, 1996, as “National Baseball Heritage Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 1996

Mr. D’AMATO (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

To designate September 23, 1996, as “National Baseball Heritage Day”.

Whereas it is universally accepted that the idea of baseball was created by Abner Doubleday in 1839 in Coopers-town, New York when Doubleday attempted to chase cows out of Elihu Phinney’s cow pasture;

Whereas, New Yorkers in Manhattan in 1842 witnessed the birth of modern day baseball when “a number of gentlemen . . . casually assembled on a plot of ground on Twenty-seventh street . . . to play ball” according to Charles A. Peverelly in The Book of American Pastimes;

Whereas these men, led by Alexander Joy Cartwright, Jr., created the set of rules to transform a childhood game into the game of baseball and to provide a model for future early clubs;

Whereas these men played the game because of sheer enjoyment and casually called themselves the “New York Baseball Club”;

Whereas Harold Peterson, in *The Man Who Invented Baseball*, notes that on the historic day of September 23, 1845, these men, now numbering more than forty, formally organized themselves into the first ever organized baseball club known as the “Knickerbocker Baseball Club”;

Whereas the Knickerbockers dedicated their efforts to the creation of regular games on the Twenty-seventh street field so they could play their new game;

Whereas others noticed the games of the Knickerbockers and created teams of their own for inter-club play with Alexander Joy Cartwright, Jr. and the Knickerbockers, according to Cartwright’s “Rules of Play”;

Whereas baseball has grown into America’s national pastime and ingratiated itself into the collective heart of America;

Whereas America has cherished baseball and fallen in love with baseball heroes like Mickey Mantle, Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, and Babe Ruth;

Whereas baseball has given Americans a common and shared experience, as well as provide a bond between generations;

Whereas parents and children enjoy baseball together throughout the countless generations;

Whereas baseball has become as much a part of the United States as the hot dogs sold at the games;

Whereas baseball has become a part of our national character; and

Whereas the designation of “National Baseball Heritage Day” will provide Americans with a chance to celebrate the history of the game and reflect on how much it has affected our collective lives and national identity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate, in recognition of the es-
2 sential role that baseball has played in the history of the
3 United States and our individual lives, designate Septem-
4 ber 23, 1996 as “National Baseball Heritage Day”. The
5 President is authorized and requested to issue a proclama-
6 tion calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
7 serve such a day with appropriate ceremonies and activi-
8 ties.

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